

ANNEX W (ESF-17) (ANIMAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE) TO DARLINGTON COUNTY EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN

Primary Agency: Darlington County Humane Society (DCHS)

Support Agency(s): Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service (CUCES)
 Darlington County Veterinary Liaison Officer
 Darlington County Environmental Health Manager (DHEC)
 Darlington County Animal Control Officer(s)
 SC Department of Natural Resources (SC DNR)

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. An emergency or disaster may adversely affect both the agricultural livestock/poultry industry and countless pets in Darlington County. Lives of the animals may be threatened or disrupted due to evacuation or due to the loss of familiar landmarks and scents and destruction of various businesses involving animals.
- B. A recent Red Cross survey said that 84% of the surveyed families stated, they would not leave their homes if they had to leave their pets. Estimates are that more than 50% of households in the US have pets not counting the thousands of livestock and horse owners in the US. It is essential that emergency plans are developed for animals and coordinated with Emergency Management officials so as not to cause problems or disrupt emergency plans for people.
- C. Natural disasters, as well as man-made disasters, may threaten various animal industries or the pet population. Disease from significant numbers of dead animals or from wild animals that are displaced by the disaster may threaten public health in addition to the health of animals.
- D. Efficient response and recovery efforts assure a rapid return to economic soundness of the livestock and pet industry, assures public health protection and enables the public to enjoy the benefit of the human/animal bonds which improves the human recovery process following a disaster.

II. PURPOSE

The purpose of this annex is to:

- A. Provide public information enabling animal owners to develop and implement their own animal emergency response plans.
- B. Designate responsibilities at the County level to insure that plans are developed, implemented and maintained that will provide protection and care for animals before, during and after a disaster.

- C Insure that veterinary care is available during disasters and to provide a mechanism to obtain additional support as required to protect both human and animal lives.
- D. Establish responsibilities for the assimilation of data related to response and recovery efforts during a disaster.
- E. Coordinate public and private sector resources that may be required during an emergency that may include, but not be limited to:
 - 1. Rescue and capture animals (including exotic pets) that may have escaped confinement.
 - 2. Evacuation and transportation.
 - 3. Sheltering.
 - 4. Quarantine of injured or sick animals.
 - 5. Disposal of dead animals.
- F. The primary focus of this plan is to address the care of companion animals and livestock, however additional annexes may be added to address other animals.

III. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

- A. The Darlington County Humane Society (DCHS) will serve as lead agency for emergency operations involving animals and is responsible for developing, implementing and maintaining the Darlington County Animal Emergency Response Plan (AERP). During EOC operations, DCHS will staff ESF-17. DCHS will appoint an individual to serve as the Darlington County Animal Emergency Coordinator (CAEC). ESF-17 will gather information from support agencies and other related organizations throughout the County concerning their level of preparedness, ability to respond and level of risk in various emergencies. ESF-17 will report to the County EPD and SEOC as required or requested during EOC operations.
- B. The agencies designated as support for ESF-17 will assist the DCHS in the development, implementation and maintenance of the AERP. During emergencies, support activities will assist as required in this annex and at the request of the DCHS.
- C. The Animal Emergency Response Committee is responsible for development and maintenance of the AERP. This committee will consist of the following:

1. Humane Society representative
2. Darlington County EPD representative
3. Veterinary Liaison Officer
4. Clemson University Extension Service – County Extension Agent
5. SCDHEC – Darlington County Office
6. SC Department of Natural Resources representative
7. Other interested individuals

D. Veterinary Liaison Officer will:

1. Provide veterinary expertise for the AERP and ESF-17 during emergencies.
2. Assist in the development of county specific instruction/educational material for distribution before, during and after emergencies.
3. Coordinate and provide information about the AERP to other veterinarians in Darlington County.
4. Coordinate with veterinary officials at state level.

E. Clemson University Extension Service – Darlington County Agent:

1. Assist with the development and maintenance of the AERP.
2. Coordinate with Clemson Extension Agents in Darlington County to participate in and provide information for the AERC.
3. Assist in the development and maintenance of public service announcements for use before, during and after an emergency.
4. Assist in the development of a county livestock database.
5. Maintain web page for animal emergency information and links.
6. Assist with resource information.

F. Darlington County Animal Control Officers:

All requests for Animal Control Officers will be coordinated through the Darlington County Environmental Health Manager located in ESF-6.

IV. RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Preparedness and Mitigation:

1. Pet and livestock owners have the responsibility to develop individual emergency plans for their pets and livestock. This means the owner is responsible for medical and maintenance care arrangements for their animals and ultimately responsible for all costs associated with their animals.
2. The Darlington County Humane Society will:
 - A. Provide a representative to the AERC to assist in development of the plan.
 - B. Develop resource lists that include:
 1. Prepare and distribute pet emergency preparedness information for the public through libraries, veterinary offices, Public Service Announcements and other media.
 2. A list of veterinarians that will accept animals during emergencies.
 3. A fee schedule for these veterinarians.
 4. A list of these veterinarians' requirements to accept these animals.
 5. A list of hotels and motels that will accept pets during emergencies.
 - C. Develop SOP'S for use during emergencies.
 - D. Identify DCHS members that will staff the EOC during emergencies and provide points of contact to the Emergency Preparedness Office for alert rosters.
3. The Veterinary Liaison Officer will:
 - A. Develop a resource list of veterinarians that will participate in the AERP.
 - B. Develop a list of animal emergency supplies (medical, housing, vaccines, rodenticides, feeds, etc.)

4. Clemson University Extension Service – Darlington County Agent will:
 - A. Assist in the development of the AERP.
 - B. Identify Clemson Extension Service Agents to participate in the AERC.
 - C. Assist in the development of public service announcements for use during emergencies.
 - D. Develop a Darlington County livestock database.
 - E. Maintain a web page for animal emergency information and links.
 - F. Assist with resource information.
5. Darlington County Animal Control Officer(s): All requests for Animal Control Officers will be coordinated through the Darlington County Environmental Health Manager located in ESF-6.

B. Response:

1. Darlington County Humane Society will:
 - A. Staff ESF-17.
 - B. Conduct reporting as required by the County EPD and SEOC.
 - C. Coordinate activities of support agencies and gather statistics and data for compilation to evaluate response efforts.
 - D. Relays assistance request to the appropriate county agencies and state agencies as necessary.
 - E. Provides for dissemination of public information on animal care and medical information during the emergency.
2. The Veterinary Liaison Officer will:
 - A. Monitor veterinary care throughout the county during the emergency.
 - B. Coordinates requests for animal medical assistance (supplies or veterinary manpower) through the EOC.

- C. Provides for dissemination of public information about animal care and medical information during the emergency.
 - D. Provide basic medical care for animals in emergency shelters.
3. The Darlington County Environmental Health Officer will assure that the Animal Control Officer(s) are available to assist as required during emergencies.
- C. Recovery:
- 1. The Darlington County Human Society will:
 - A. Coordinates the phase down of animal emergency services through the various support agencies and within the framework of the EOC.
 - B. Collect data on services rendered and compile data for evaluation of response efforts and costs incurred by livestock owners.
 - C. Coordinate the return and final disposition of animals to their owners.
 - D. Coordinate with the appropriate agencies for disposal of dead animals.
 - 2. The Veterinary Liaison Officer will:
 - A. Determine the veterinary resources that were used during the emergency and provide the EOC with a report of response and recovery efforts.
 - B. Assist in the disposal of dead animals.
 - C. Assist in determining veterinary cost incurred by County veterinarians.
 - 3. Clemson University Extension Service – Darlington County Agents will:
 - A. Assess the disaster impact on livestock operations in Darlington County.
 - B. Collect data on services rendered and compile data for the final reports and provide the EOC with a copy of the report.

- C. Insure data is available to assist livestock owners with their recovery operations.
 - D. Provide resource information as required by DCHS.
4. Darlington County Animal Control Officers will assist DCHS as requested and approved by the County Environmental Health Manager.
 5. Requests for State and Federal Assistance:

All requests for assistance from other Counties or the State of South Carolina will be submitted and coordinated through ESF-17 and the Emergency Preparedness Director before submission to the SEOC. All requests for Federal assistance will be submitted through ESF-17 to the Emergency Preparedness Director and then submitted to the SEOC.
 6. Appendixes:
 - Appendix 1: Resource list of local and state contacts.
 - Appendix 2: Public Service Announcements and brochures.
 - Appendix 3: Hotel/motel list that will accept pets.
 - Appendix 4: List of area animal shelters.

Darlington County Animal Emergency
Coordinator

Date

Emergency Preparedness Director

Date